

Senator Benjamin L. Cardin

Academy Nominations

There are five service academies that offer young men and women a free, outstanding education that prepares them for a commission in the armed services. The academies are:

- [U.S. Naval Academy](#)
- [U.S. Military Academy](#)
- [U.S. Air Force Academy](#)
- [U.S. Merchant Marine Academy](#)
- [U.S. Coast Guard Academy](#)

The U.S. Naval Academy, U.S. Military Academy, U.S. Air Force Academy, and the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy require a nomination from an authorized source before consideration for appointment. Nominations are awarded by members of the U.S. Senate, the U.S. House of Representatives, and the Vice President of the United States. Active military members, children of deceased or disabled veterans and children of career military may qualify for additional sources of nomination and should contact the service academies directly.

PLEASE NOTE: Only the service academies can make an offer of appointment (acceptance). A nomination does not ensure admission to a service academy but is required to be considered for admission.

The U.S. Coast Guard Academy offers appointments based on a national competition. There are no nominations to the U.S. Coast Guard Academy. Interested candidates should contact the academy directly.

Service Academy Requirements for Nomination

- Be at least 17 years old but not have passed your 23rd birthday as of July 1st of the year of acceptance.
- Be a U.S. citizen on the day of admission.
- Be unmarried, not pregnant, and have no obligation to support children or other dependents.
- Be in good health and physical condition (the academies require a physical before acceptance).

U.S. Senator Benjamin L. Cardin's Requirements for Consideration for a Nomination

[Click here for the Service Academy Nomination Form](#)

- Submit a completed application by November 2, 2007 at 5 p.m. to:

U. S. Senator Benjamin L. Cardin
Tower 1, Suite 1710
100 S. Charles Street
Baltimore, MD 21201

- The application for a nomination must be submitted in one complete packet by November 2, 2007 or the applicant will not be considered for a nomination. A complete packet will include:

Basic Fact Sheet

Questionnaire

Essay

SAT scores (official SAT notification)

Official high school and college transcripts

Three letters of recommendation.

- One letter of recommendation must be from your high school counselor or principal and others should be from individuals who know you well and can speak to your character and the qualities that will make you a good service academy candidate, e.g. coach, teacher, pastor. Recommendation letters from family members are highly discouraged.
- Official transcripts and recommendations should be in sealed envelopes that are signed across the flap by the contributing individual.
- Be available for an interview on either Friday, December 7, 2007 at the Prince George's County Field Office, 10201 Martin Luther King, Jr. Highway, Suite 210, Bowie, MD, 20720 or Saturday, December 8, 2007 at the State Office, Tower 1, Suite 1710, 100 S. Charles Street, Baltimore, MD 21201. Applicants will be considered based on their academic achievement as well as their demonstrated ability to participate in extra-curricular activities, athletics and community service. Leadership positions in these activities are also valued. Interviews will assess commitment to military service as well as verbal communication and presentation.
- Complete an application at the service academy for which you are seeking a nomination by November 2, 2007. Our office will only consider each applicant for a nomination to one service academy.
- SAT scores with combined verbal and math scores of at least 1200 points are required to apply for a nomination.